Secondly, the viability of connecting smaller towns with larger towns can arise only when the fares of such operations are subsidised by long-haul connecting operations. Why can't the Civil Aviation Minister inform this House and bring to an end this continuously arising debate?

श्री शरद यादव: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव दिए हैं वह मंत्रालय के विचाराधीन हैं और इस पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं कि किस तरह से इस समस्या से निपटा जाए। समस्या तो आपको मालूम ही है और वह है सबसे ज्यादा पैसे की। हमारे पास प्लान तो हैं, सारी चीजों की योजनाएं हैं। जो आप कह रहे हैं, उस काम में हम लोग लगे हुए हैं और जब काम संपन्न हो जाएगा तो फिर आपको बताएंगे।

Bill to bar candidates from contesting from more than one Constituency

*325. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a statement of the Union Home Minister, as reported in the Business Standard dated the 24th August, 1999 to the effect that a bill proposing to bar candidates from fighting elections from more than one Lok Sabha constituency is on the anvil;

(b) if so, whether major political parties and the Election Commission have been consulted and their view points ascertained; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The Union Home Minister has, at no stage mentioned that a Bill proposing to bar candidates from fighting elections from more than one constituency is on the anvil.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sir, there has been some misreporting in the newspapers. Enquiries made from the hon. Minister revealed that he had made no

such categorical statement of any kind and, therefore, the rest of the questions don't arise.

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Sir, my question is whether the Union Home Minister, as reported in the Business Standard dated 24th August, 1999, had made any statement to the effect that a Bill proposing to bar candidates from fighting elections from more than one Lok Sabha constituency is on the anvil.

Sir, it is already reported in the newspaper...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already replied to that part.

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Yes; Sir, but what I am saying is, in a number of constituencies, almost in all the elections, we are observing candidates contesting elections from more than one constituency. In case a candidate gets elected from both the constituencies, the electoral law mandates that he should resign from one of the constituencies, necessitating by elections. Elections are forced on the people frequently. It results in wasteful expenditure. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a statement to this effect from the hon. Home Minister or not; whether the hon. Minister will consider barring candidates from contesting elections from more than one constituency.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I am not speaking on behalf of the Government, because the Government has not made up its mind. But what the hon. Member has said is absolutely right and whatever little influency I have, I will use it to bring this proposal before the House.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the hon. Minister is right in saying that the Government has so far not taken a view in this matter, but, at the same time, this issue is being discussed amongst the political parties. They are coming round the view that there is a need to bar the candidates from contesting elections from more than one constituency because it is resulting in wasteful expenditure and it is also unnecessarily putting a burden on the official machinery concerned in a particular constituency. I would like to know whether the Government will take an initiative and call a meeting of all the political parties, evolve a consensus on this issue and then go for a legislation.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, the Law Commission, in its 120th report, amongst its other suggestions, has incorporated this suggestion as well, that we should abolish this system of candidates contesting elections from more than one constituency. The Law Commission's report is under the active consideration of the Government. Sir, we will certainly consult all the political parties and bring forward a comprehensive electoral reforms Bill which is also a part of the pledge which we have made in the President's Address.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: सभापति महोदय, चाहे ये मंत्री हों, चाहे दूसरे मंत्री हों, उनकी रिस्पांसिबिलिटी कलेक्टिव होती है। आए दिन उनके स्टेटमेंट्स निकलते हैं, प्रॉमिसेज़ निकलते हैं। बाद में सदस्य यहां सवाल पूछते हैं, उसमें समय लगता है, पैसा लगता है और हमारी ऐनर्जी लगती है। उसके बाद अगर यह कहा जाए कि on inquiry it was found that मंत्री जी ने ऐसा स्टेटमेंट नहीं दिया। यह केवल इस पर्टिकुलर सवाल के बारे में नहीं है। पार्लियामेंट में हम आएंगे, सप्लीमेंटरी होगा, उसके बाद यह रिप्लाई मिलेगा तो इससे अच्छा है कि जब इतने मंत्री हैं और इतने स्टेटमेंट्स आते हैं, इतने प्रॉमिसेज़ किए जाते हैं तो क्यों नहीं आप ऐसा कोई डिपार्टमेंट खोल लें या किसी डिपार्टमेंट को जिम्मेदारी दे दें कि रोजाना वह मॉनिटर करे मीडिया को, न्यूज़पेपर्स को और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक चैनल्स को और मंत्री लोगों का डिनायल अगले दिन निकल जाए कि सरकार ने इस संबंध में अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया है। अक्सर देखा जाता है कि एन०डी०ए० में फैसला नहीं हुआ, कैबिनेट में फैसला नहीं हुआ लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ने ऐलान कर दिया—कभी डिफेंस रिलेटेड और कभी किसी दूसरे विषय से रिलेटेड। रोजाना ऐसे स्टेटमेंट्स आ रहे हैं और फिर प्रधानमंत्री जी को भी झमेले में पड़ना पड़ रहा है। नन मिनिस्टर्स भी हैं जो ऐसे ऐलान कर देते हैं गवर्नमेंट पालिसी के। सभापति महोदय, परिवार बहुत बड़ा है। इसलिए आप परिवार के अंदर कहीं खंडन के लिए कोई ऐसा विभाग खोलेंगे जो रोज के रोज बोल दे, खंडन कर दे ताकि दूसरे दिन हंगामा न हो, झमेला न हो और सवाल न उठे?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion by the hon. Member that there should be a Minister for clarifications. It is for the Government to decide and not the hon. Minister.

Road Links to Buddhist Places in Uttar Pradesh

*326. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some roads connecting Buddhist centres in U.P. are being constructed from external assistance;